

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 SR-02

ORM-03 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 L-03 RSR-01 /149 W
----- 010645

R 202348 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8510
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID SREF UNRWA XF

SUBJ: UNRWA WB MEETING OF JUNE 19

REF: A . USUN 2071
B. BEIRUT 6832

1. AT MEETING JUNE 19, WORKING GROUP (WG) HEARD REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER GENERAL RENNIE AND DISCUSSED FOLLOW- UP APPEALS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA. RENNIE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS :

A. UNRWA BUDGET HAS BEEN HARD HIT BY CONTINUING INFLATION AND FLUCTUATION OF CURRENCIES. 1973 DEFICIT WILL BE \$4.2 MILLION AND PROSPECTS FOR 1974 ARE EVEN WORSE SINCE COSTS OF ONGOING PROGRAMS ARE BOUND TO RISE EACH YEAR.
B. IF DEFICIT PERSISTS, HE WILL HAVE TO REDUCE SERVICES, PROBABLY IN EDUCATION PROGRAM. HE FEELS THERE LITTLE PRACTICAL ROOM FOR CUTS IN RATIONS PROGRAM.
C. IF COST OF UNRWA' S INT' L STAFF WERE TRANSFERRED TO REGULAR UN BUDGET, DEFICIT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED.
D. HE ENCOURAGED WG TO DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP AGENCY' S FINANCES.

2. LEBANESE REP (MAHMASSANI), SPEAKING FOR ARAB HOST GOVTS, SAID HE MUST OPPOSE STRONGLY ANY REDUCTION IN UNRWA PROGRAM. HE ASKED FOR IDEAS AS TO WHAT WG CAN DO TO AVERT

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3. WG DISCUSSED COUNTRIES TO BE APPROACHED IN FOLLOW- UP APPEAL FOR ADDED CONTRIBUTIONS. UK REP (WESTON) SUGGESTED

ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL BE INCLUDED IN LIST. FRENCH REP (LECLERCQ) SUGGESTED FOLLOW- UP ACTION BE SEVERELY LIMITED, CONCENTRATING ON THREE REGIONS-- ARAB STATES, EE STATES AND WE STATES SUCH AS NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND AUSTRIA. US REP NOTED LISTING WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBJ TO DEPT' S APPROVAL AND DISCRETION OF RESPECTIVE MISSIONS IN FIELD. WG TENTATIVELY SEPARATED PROPOSED LIST IN TWO PARTS. PART A, CONSISTING OF WG DEFINITELY BELIEVES SHOULD BE APPROACHED INCLUDES ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHINA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRAN, ITALY, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, USSR, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA, FRG, GDR AND SWITZERLAND. PART B, CONSISTING OF STATES WG BELIEVES ITS REPS IN THOSE REPECTIVE CAPITALS SHOULD CONSIDER APPROACHING INCLUDES INDONESIA, IVORY COAST, KENYA, MALAYSIA, PANAMA, PERU, SINGAPORE AND HOLY SEA.

4. REQUEST DEPT' S VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY OF JOINING APPEAL, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER WG MEMBER STATES, IN THOSE COUNTRIES (PARA THREE ABOVE).

5. WG SECRETARY (DEBRITO) REPORTED THAT CHAIRMAN' S LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF UN APPEALING FOR FUNDS WAS STILL BEING PROCESSED. UK REP SUGGESTED RENNIE EDIT LETTER TO INCLUDE GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF AGENCY' S FINANCIAL PLIGHT. RENNIE AND WESTON PROMISED TO SUBMIT WORDING AND SECRETARY WAS INSTRUCTED TO HOLD UP PROCESSING MEANTIME. (DRAFT LETTER DATAFAXED IO/ UNP/ GREENE.)

6. CHAIRMAN (OLCAY) SAID HE ASSUMED WG MEMBERS WOULD ASK THEIR GOVTS TO MAKE FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA. HE FELT THAT IN SOME WG CAPITALS (INCLUDING ANKARA) A JOINT APPROACH BY AMBASSADORS OF WG MEMBER COUNTRIES MIGHT BE USEFUL.

7. RENNIE ASKED WG NOT TO MAKE APPEALS TO ARAB GOVTS WHILE HE EXPLORES POSSIBILITIES THERE. HE IS SEEKING INTER-MEDIARIES WHO MIGHT MAKE APPEALS ON BEHALF UNRWA AND, IF NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SUCCESSFUL, MAY LATER ASK WG TO UNDERTAKE DIRECT APPROACHES. RENNIE ALSO NOTED THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER UN AGENCIES AND HE IS NOT HOPEFUL OF SUPPORT FROM THAT QUARTER. HE WELCOMED APPROACH BY WG TO EAST EUROPEAN STATES, COMMENTING HE HOPES THERE MAY BE CHANGE OF HEART THERE.

8. RENNIE CALLED ON AMB. SCALI JUNE 20 TO REPORT ON UNRWA FISCAL SITUATION, ON ABOVE LINES. SCALI NOTED SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AND ASSURED RENNIE HE WOULD PASS HIS OBSERVATIONS ALONG, BUT STRESSED THAT IT DOUBTFUL US COULD IN PRESENT STRINGENT CIRCUMSTANCES INCREASE ITS ALREADY GENEROUS SUPPORT OF UNRWA. RENNIE ALSO MET WITH UNSYG

AND REPS OF SEVERAL OTHER WG MEMBERS DURING HIS NEW YORK
STAY. HE DEPARTS JUNE 20 FOR BEIRUT VIA STOPOVER LONDON.
SCALI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN02311
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730634/abqceaxr.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A . USUN 2071 B. BEIRUT 6832
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNRWA WB MEETING OF JUNE 19
TAGS: EAID SREF UNRWA XF
To: STATE
BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005